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K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Do the Government want to encourage betting especially by the poor people who travel by bus? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not a question of encouraging betting. When a large number of people crowd at any place, we run special buses for that place."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Even when that going is for an illegal purpose? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not an illegal purpose so long as racing is allowed by the Government. Suppose there is a conference of Muslim Leaguers under the presidency of the hon. Member. Then also we will run special buses to the place of the conference."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Thousands of families are ruined on account of betting, and it is the policy of this Government to discourage betting. Even before the Bill is passed for abolishing betting at the races, why should not the Government try to prevent the evil as far as possible? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I don't think the hon. Member is asking for any information. So long as racing is there, the Government Transport buses will run because a large number of people find it very inconvenient to travel by other means of transport. The Transport department is there to serve the people, whether it is for going to the race-course or a foot-ball match or a Muslim League Conference."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not the policy of the Government to prevent people from betting in races as it brings misery to thousands of families? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the point has been sufficiently canvassed."

Extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by the Government.

* 174 *Q.*—SRI. R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the localities and the extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by the Government;

(*b*) whether all these plantations have been successful;

(*c*) whether, before an area is chosen for casuarina plantation, a survey is made and suitability of the soils is ascertained; and

(*d*) what steps the Government propose to take to increase casuarina plantations?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) A statement [a] showing the localities and the extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by Government from the year 1940–41 onwards is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) It cannot be said that all these plantations have been quite successful. There have been widespread casualties from 1945

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 853 infra.

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to 1948 wherever plantations were raised in widely separated localities affecting both Government and private plantations and the casualties are due to adverse climatic factors, viz., the 1945 drought, the 1946 floods, the short spell of severe hot weather that prevailed in June 1947 and the complete failure of the north-east monsoon in July 1947, the cumulative effect of which has caused mortality in varying degrees wherever casuarina is raised.

"(c) Yes.

"(d) Under the Post-war Reconstruction proposals, the target figure for raising casuarina throughout the Province—not all of it necessarily to be departmental planting—has been fixed at 150,000 acres on a 10-year rotation of 15,000 acres per year. With this end in view, plantations have been taken up in certain forest divisions mostly in coastal areas and also in the Cauvery Coleroon padugais. Interior areas selected in the Tanjore revenue district for raising casuarina have been handed over to villagers and co-operative societies for casuarina planting. New areas have also been selected in suitable localities in the northern taluks of Tiruchirappalli revenue district. The possibility of reserving areas for casuarina plantations in or near Bellary district is under investigation. So far 21,573 acres have already been planted with casuarina."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is any assistance given to private persons interested in raising casuarina plantation?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Wherever technical advice is sought, it is given. Whoever asks for the seedlings of casuarina trees, they are given."

[175 *Q.* and 176 *Q.* were already answered—Please see pages 809 and 810.]

The Madras Drugs Rules.

* 177 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras Drugs Rules have been promulgated;

(*b*) what the arrangements are for their enforcement;

(*c*) whether a retail dealer of drugs who deals in drugs either in bulk or loose and does not undertake dispensing is required to employ a compounder;

(*d*) whether licences have been cancelled for not appointing compounders; and

(*e*) whether the compounders appointed should all be fully qualified?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, from 1st April 1947.

"(*b*) The Surgeon-General has been appointed as the Provincial Drugs Controller and Licensing Authority. A separate drugs section has been formed in the Surgeon-General's office for